

Amendments to the Specification

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following paragraph:

Illustrated in Fig. 1, generally at 10, is a novel connector for use in forming the precast concrete wall panels of the present invention. The connector 10 has a central longitudinal component (a portion of which is illustrated in Fig. 1 at 12) that is fabricated from fiber-reinforced composite to which has been over-molded a one or more components using a polymer, preferably one compatible with the matrix of the composite. In the connector 10 of the preferred embodiment, two over-molded components 11 and 13 (Figs. 1 and 3) have been used, one on either side of the exposed portion of the composite component 12. The composite component 12 is initially formed by pultrusion and has a profile that is constant over its length. To assist in retaining the over-molded components 11 and 13 on the composite component 12, one or more of the end portions of the composite component 12 may be radially expanded. One method of accomplishing such radial expansion is by the longitudinal insertion of a heated spike into the end of the composite component 12. The heated spike will force the end portion of the composite component 12 to flare radially outwardly, increasing the radial dimension of the end portion progressively toward the terminus of the composite component 12. When the over-molded portions 11 and 13 are molded onto the composite component 12, the flared end portions will assist in preventing the over-molded components 11 and 13 from being pulled off of the composite component 12 when the connector 10 is in use with over-molded components 11 and 13 embedded in separate concrete wythes and a tension is present in the connector 10. Of course, other methods may be used to radially expand the end portions of the composite connector, such as by the use of an oven or microwave energy to heat the end portion to or near to the melt temperature of the composite matrix whereupon the stored energy of the composite will act to expand the radial dimension of the composite 10.

Kindly replace the first full paragraph of page 6 with the following paragraph:

The over-molded components 11 and 13 of the connector 10 provide two pairs of retaining ears, 14a-b and 16a-b, that are used for retaining in a snap fit a reinforcing grid that is used in the conventional manner to reinforce the concrete wythes. The ears 14 and 16 are

spaced from the ends of the connector the appropriate distance so as to support the reinforcing grid at the desired position in the concrete wythe. Additionally, one of the over-molded components 11 provides a washer 18 which is used to support a layer of insulation during the fabrication of a precast wall panel using the connectors 10. A plurality of ridges 20 are formed in the over-molded component 11 and will serve to support a separate washer 22 (Fig. 2) which may be received about the connector 10 and is attached thereto by a snap-fit with any selected one of the plurality of ridges 20. Finally, a conical end 24, 26 is formed into each of the over-molded components 11 and 13. The vertex of the conical ends 24, 26 will support the connectors 10 when casting a wall panel using the connectors 10 and, being of only a small dimension, will reduce the visibility of the connectors 10 exteriorly of the wall panel once formed.